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NEWS RELEASES

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CITY CONTINUES TO SHOW WELL IN 'COMMUNITIES IN BLOOM' COMPETITION

The City of Saskatoon once again received "five blooms" at the Ninth Annual Communities in Bloom symposium and national awards ceremonies held in Stratford, Ontario. Five blooms is the highest rating any city can be awarded, however the total number of points awarded determines the winner in each category.

Saskatoon competed in the 110,001 to 300,000 population category along with Abbotsford (BC) and Richmond Hill (ON), with Richmond Hill winning the category. Each of the three competitors in this category received five blooms, with Saskatoon receiving 824.5 points out of a possible 1,000. Although Saskatoon did not win, the city received a special mention for Management of the River Bank. The Awards' Committee comments included, "Both, the City and the Meewasin Valley Authority place high value on ensuring that the riparian zone is retained in as natural a condition as possible. Their interest and commitment in this regard should be commended and could be a model for other communities in similar situations."

The Saskatoon Communities in Bloom Committee would like to thank the following sponsors: Dutch Growers, The Delta Bessborough, Dodge City Auto, The Granary, Tourism Saskatoon, The Berry Barn, Boffins Club, and Mykonos Restaurant.

"Communities in Bloom" is a Canada-wide non-profit organization committed to fostering civic pride, environmental responsibility, and beautification through community participation and the challenge of a national competition. Started in 1995 with 29 Canadian communities, "Communities in Bloom" has grown to more than 100 national and hundreds of municipalities registered in the provincial editions.

"Communities in Bloom" strives to improve the tidiness, appearance, and visual appeal of Canada's neighbourhoods, parks, open spaces, and streets through the imaginative use of flowers, plants and trees. A focus on environmental awareness and preservation of heritage and culture is also an integral part of its success resulting in an improved quality of life.

The 2003 edition of Saskatoon's Communities in Bloom competition is dedicated to the memory of Mr. Don Ross who passed away shortly after presenting Saskatoon to this year's judges. Don's dedication, as well as love

and knowledge of Saskatoon is the inspiration for the committee to continue in this worthwhile competition by entering in the 2004 competition. It was also through Don's efforts that the City of Saskatoon was awarded the 2005 National Awards Ceremony and Symposium.

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